

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An imaging optical system ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of, in order from an object side:

- a first lens having positive refracting power,
- a second lens having negative refracting power, and a concave surface of which is directed toward the object side,
- a third lens having positive refracting power, and a convex surface of which is directed toward an image side, and
- a fourth lens having negative refracting power,

wherein the second lens and the third lens are cemented together, and wherein at least one of surfaces of the fourth lens is an aspherical surface.

2. (Currently Amended) An imaging optical system ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising, in order from an object side:

- a first lens having positive refracting power;
- a second lens having negative refracting power, and a concave surface of which is directed toward the object side;
- a third lens having positive refracting power, and a convex surface of which is directed toward an image side; and
- a fourth lens having negative refracting power;

wherein the second lens and the third lens are cemented together,
wherein at least one of surfaces of the fourth lens is an aspherical surface, and
wherein an aperture stop which is arranged on the object side of the first lens.

3. (Currently Amended) An imaging optical system ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of, in order from an object side:

- a first lens having positive refracting power,
- a second lens having negative refracting power, and a concave surface of which is directed toward the object side,